



Calendar

- **Aug. 20** — Navigate OCC
Campuswide, 8 a.m.
- **Aug. 23** — Fall Flex Day
Campuswide, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- **Don't Forget!**
The Fall 2019 semester begins
August 26th



Pirates Close the Book With State Baseball Championship!

Joey Fregosi's well-placed infield single with the bases loaded capped off a walk-off, come-from-behind, 8-7 win over El Camino to win the 2019 California Community College Baseball State Championship on May 28 at Fresno City College's John Eules Ballpark.

The win, coupled with a 7-5 win over the Warriors in the earlier game, gave the Pirates (39-9-1) their seventh state baseball championship and 94th overall title in school history.

"I told these guys when we got here this weekend that we were on our final chapter of this great story and it was up to us to write what type of ending it would be," OCC head coach John Altobelli said. "Man, do I love this final chapter.

"These guys never quit when it could've been so easy to. We dug deep and we had players step up for us that didn't get a lot of playing time for us all year and they got it done. What a special group this is."

With Coast leading 5-4 after six innings, El Camino (40-9) delivered a big blow to the Pirates' chances when Matt Beserra came through with a two-run home run over the left-field wall,

putting the Warriors up, 6-5.

But the Pirates showed the heart of a champion when Tyler Lasch and Murphy Stehly singled to start the bottom of the seventh. After a sacrifice bunt by Jacob Gentry moved over both runners, David Morgan came through with a two-run double to right-center, giving OCC a 7-6 lead.

The Warriors, playing inspired baseball all season long after losing one of their teammates, Sladen Mohl to an automobile accident on April 18, refused to quit. Taishi Nakawake led off the top of the eighth with a double to left and scored two batters later on a sacrifice fly to right off the bat of Spencer Palmer.

Controversy ensued three batters later when, with runners on second and third, a fly ball down the right-field line off the bat of Ty Conrad bounced off of Anderson's glove and appeared to score two runs, but, the umpires ruled the ball foul and Conrad followed with an inning-ending ground ball to second, keeping the score tied at 7.

In the ninth, after reliever Davis Delorefice worked out of a first-and-second, nobody-out jam, Coast began to write its final chapter. Todd Jackson led off with a walk and advanced to second on a Stehly single to right. After a sacrifice bunt by Caleb Anderson moved over both runners, Morgan was intentionally walked to load the bases and Fregosi stepped up

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with the season on the line. Not playing with an injured elbow, the sophomore infielder bounced the first pitch into the hole to the right of shortstop Nakawake at short. There was no play to be made as Jackson scored, sending an eruption of celebration on the side of the Pirates.

“What a perfect kid to end our season with,” Altobelli said of Fregosi. “His year wasn’t as strong as he would’ve liked it to be, but he never stopped working and he kept his head up. When he got his opportunity, he delivered.”

OCC starting pitcher Cole Van Den Helder was named the State Tournament MVP after coming back on two days rest to throw five strong innings after throwing 118 pitches against Sacramento City. For the final game, he allowed four runs (all unearned) on nine hits with one walk and eight strikeouts.

Coast became just the third team since 2000 to win the state title by playing four games over the final two days.

Orange Coast College Becomes First Community College to Win at ASA DataFest

A team of Orange Coast College computer science students earned the respect and admiration of their peers by becoming the first team from a community college to win at the American Statistical Association’s 2019 DataFest at Chapman University on May 5.

The ASA DataFest is a 48-hour intense hackathon where teams of University-level students work to clean, explore, analyze and perform machine learning modeling on corporate provided big data. OCC sent three teams to the competition under the mentorship of Computer Science Professor Nadia Ahmed. One of those teams — dubbed “Memory Leak” — won Best Use of Outside Data, a top prize in the four categories teams competed in. This year’s data was provided by the Canadian Women’s Rugby team, and included wellness data, GPS data, competition information, and force load/impact data.

“Our team impressed the judges by performing signal processing on GPS data to extract the number of collisions incurred per player on the team as a predictor of sleep quality and overall wellness,” explains Ahmed. “They used data from the National Center for Biotechnology Information to corroborate per player performance as flags for traumatic brain injury events.”

The OCC team’s win is unprecedented, as community colleges were only allowed to participate in the competition starting last year. At this year’s competition, 28 teams of 128 students represented colleges across California, such as Cal Poly Pomona, Chapman University, UC Irvine, and UC Santa Barbara.

OCC’s winning team was comprised of students Naomi Valentin, Hector Elias, Ryan Millett, Phouc Do, and Jacob Leenerts. The team was invited to speak at a round-table discussion and awards banquet on May 20.



“This is a rag-tag team of hard-working individuals, each with unique backgrounds and talent,” says Ahmed. “They are intensely passionate about learning, go above and beyond to solve problems, and are incredibly loyal to their values as a tight knit group of friends. They inspire me and I know they will be successful in whatever they set their mind to.”

Orange Coast College’s Names Gabriel Caliendo Alumni of the Year

Orange Coast College named Vice President of Research and Development and Principal Chef for Lazy Dog restaurants Gabriel Caliendo as the College’s 2019 Alumni of the Year.

Caliendo – who both studied and taught in OCC’s culinary arts program – grew up in his family’s Italian deli in New York City and spent years in the industry before returning to



OCC to receive a formal education at Coast where he earned certificates in Culinary Arts, Advanced Culinary Arts, and Restaurant Management and Catering.

"I consider my experience at Orange Coast College to be so important to my career and my personal growth over the years," says Caliendo. "I worked so hard to attend classes and complete the program while holding down multiple jobs. It was a very stressful and fast-paced time in my life, and I would not trade it for anything."

Caliendo was a founding partner in Lazy Dog Restaurant and Bar, which opened its first location in Huntington Beach in 2003. By the end of 2018, Lazy Dog had 30 restaurants across five states: California, Nevada, Texas, Colorado and Illinois. The company has six new locations planned for 2019.

Caliendo is the creative mind behind Lazy Dog's menu, featuring a fresh take on traditional comfort foods. He often invites OCC culinary students to visit him in his research and development kitchen, and offers advice to aspiring chefs.

"I'm again humbled by the decision to award me with an Alumni of the Year designation," Caliendo says. "It means a lot to me and I am very grateful to continue my professional and personal experience with OCC."

Twelve OCC Faculty Honored at UCI Educator Recognition Event

Faculty from across all disciplines at Coast were identified by their former students at the University of California, Irvine as outstanding educators who made a significant positive contribution to their students' academic success.

The 12 OCC instructors selected for the honor were invited to an Educator Recognition Dinner and Awards ceremony at UCI on May 14. They are:

- Gabriela Ernsberger, Computer Science
- Jarren Gonzales, Psychology
- Jose Costas, Dance
- Anne Bresnock, Economics
- Hannah Kang, Psychology
- Marc Perkins, Biology
- Greg Russell, Biology
- Mickey Laux, Chemistry
- Doug Lloyd, Math
- Arnold Guerra, Physics
- Michelle Ngo
- Jennifer Czerniawski

Here is what some of the faculty who were recognized had to say about their teaching philosophy, and what the honor means to them:

“My students, who have diverse academic and life experiences, are my inspiration. Making personal connections with them and understanding their story has helped me better understand barriers to student learning. As a result, my approach to teaching and mentoring is continuously evolving for them.”

-Dr. Hannah Kang

“My teaching experience at OCC has been so rewarding, and the students make every day worth it. I love the diversity of our students and the different strengths each one of them brings to the table. On top of that, my colleagues at OCC are some of the best there are; I value their passion and insight.”

-Dr. Greg Russell

“Working at OCC has been an education in itself. The community college student has different needs than your regular four-year student. The students at OCC need much more guidance navigating through the system and in many cases, navigating through life. Being recognized by my former student means the world to me.”

-Jose Costas

“OCC's strong stance on academic freedom and encouragement of innovation has allowed me to dramatically change my teaching and grow as an instructor over the years. I teach via the flipped classroom and class sessions are typically focused around what the students want to cover that day. I'm here to try to help folks learn and grow as people, and to have someone actually say that I was the most influential person in their time at OCC is the most I could ever hope for. I'm so grateful.”

-Marc Perkins

“Both [Orange Coast College and UC Irvine] represent what I consider the ideals of higher education that focus on life-long learning, interpersonal skills, and contributing to the greater good of society. These are the same goals I hope all students use to direct their career paths and lives. It is my strong belief that my role as a teacher is not only to convey information to my students, but also to teach them problem solving skills, and just as importantly, how to think critically.”

-Dr. Arnold Guerra III

“Since joining the Math Department at OCC I have been impressed by the drive and natural curiosity of the students that attend our college. The positive experience I have had at OCC has energized my teaching. I find myself entering the classroom with expectant joy and enthusiasm, knowing that each semester I will be met with students that are eager to learn and work diligently to master the course content. It is a privilege to teach in such an environment.”

-Doug Lloyd



OCC Awards 5,400 Degrees, Certificates at 71st Commencement

OCC conferred more than 5,400 associate's degrees and certificates of achievement at the College's 71st commencement ceremony on May 24 at the OC Fairground's Pacific Amphitheatre.

Fashion instructor Christina Amaral is the 2019 Faculty Member of the Year. Amaral has worked and taught at OCC for 35 years. During her time at the College she has arranged countless industry field trips and internships for students, working closely and collaborating with local brands like Volcom, Hurley, Paul Frank Industries, Vans, RVCA, and many, many more.

"I'm a strong believer in education and continuously working to create a connection between students, faculty and industry," Amaral says. "I believe that if we, as faculty, take the time to get to know our students we can build solid relationships that will continue to grow and benefit many future generations."

Vice President of Research and Development and Principal Chef for Lazy Dog restaurants Gabriel Caliendo is OCC's 2019 Alumni of the Year and delivered a keynote speech. Caliendo - who both studied and taught in OCC's culinary arts program - spent years in the industry before returning to OCC to receive a formal education.

OCC's Student Speaker was psychology major Abigail Hill, who transferred to Vanguard University this summer. Hill - a 42-year-old mother of two - had a simple message for graduates: "It's never too late to go back to school."

Hill also extended her sincere gratitude to those in the Coast community who helped her achieve her educational goals. "The faculty and staff at OCC are so encouraging and supportive that they make the journey that much easier and worth it," she says. "I will take away three great years of learning, growth, struggle and balance. I truly feel OCC has set me up for success in my next chapter."

Horticulture Students Donate Vegetable Scraps to Santa Ana Zoo

During the Spring 2019 semester, horticulture instructor Rick Harlow's Wednesday night class connected with the Santa Ana Zoo to donate excess vegetable scraps, and a group of Ring-tailed lemurs were very happy about it!

"With four sections of hort. science we often overrun the local soup kitchen and OCC's Pantry with extra lettuce, carrots, kale etc. and fill up the dumpster with scraps like broccoli stems and beet tops," explains Harlow. "Last month, two zookeepers came by at the end of the harvest and took saved scraps back to the zoo and sent these pictures as a thank you."

